**Talking Points for Legislative Chairs, September 2019**

Details are in the September issue of the *Advocacy Communicator.*

* Advocating for children is PTA’s most important job. Fourth District PTA has a lot of resources to help us with advocacy work in our unit/council. There is an Advocacy Training on Friday, September 20. It’s free and open to all PTA members. Who would like to join me?
* This is the second year of the current state legislative session. California State PTA is a co-sponsor of AB 39, which would set a new funding goal for the base grant in the Local Control Funding Formula. The goal is to get the state’s per-pupil funding within the top 10 states nationwide, instead of close to the bottom where we have been for many years.
* CAPTA also supports bills that would:
  + require schools to offer at least one full-day kindergarten,
  + require later start times for middle and high school,
  + place a new school facilities bond on the March 2020 ballot,
  + require online training for teachers to support LGBTQ students, and
  + forbid the expulsion of students for disrupting school activities or defying school authority.

You can get information about all of the bills that CAPTA supports at capta.org under Focus Areas – Advocacy.

* California schools are getting about $6.4 billion more than last year. About $2 billion of that will be money distributed through the Local Control Funding Formula, which each district decides how to spend. New funding is also designated for specific state priorities, such as increasing the number of children who can attend preschool, adding more science, math, bilingual and special education teachers, especially in high-needs schools, and providing more services for special education children, including those in preschool. The state is also putting about $400 million in an education Rainy Day Fund.
* While all of this is good news, California still lags far behind other states in what we spend on K-12 education. CAPTA advocates for adequate funding for our schools and a stable revenue system that would prevent the drastic revenue fluctuations our schools have experienced in past years.
* There is a schedule of all of the advocacy events for the year on page 2 of the *Advocacy Communicator.* The Advocacy Forums are free and open to all PTA members.
* Are we sending someone to Sacramento Safari this year?

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